Copies of the Dewan's Address in English, Malayalam and Tamil were distributed to the members, as also copies of the Administration Report of the State for 1099, in English and Malayalam, of the report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1099, in English and Malayalam, of the "Statistics of Travancore" for 1099 in English and of the Memoranda of subjects in English, Malayalam and Tamil.

The Dewan announced that Mr. C. W. E. Cotton C. I. E., I. C. S., Agent to the Governor-General, Madras States, had written to say that he regretted his inability to attend the meeting, and that Sir P. Rajagopalachari and Dewan Bahadur Mr. M. Krishnan Nayar, former Dewans of the State, had sent their greetings to the Assembly.

The Dewan then opened the session with the following

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY,

For the first time in the history of this institution, it is our misfortune to-day to meet under the shadow of a national bereavement. His Highness Srî Mûlam Tirunâl, to whose large-hearted statesmanship this Assembly owes its being, has been removed from our midst by the inscrutable hand of Providence, and the country bemoans the loss of one who combined a saintly personality with the rare qualities of a great ruler, who, for well-nigh forty years, guided the destinies of this land with an unerring instinct, and who has rightly come to be revered by his devoted subjects as 'Râjarshi' and 'the Father of his people.' It is the province of the historian to recount the unique part played by His Highness the late Maha Raja in the moulding of modern Travancore. His life, as Lecky said of that of Queen Victoria, was a most harmonious whole, in which mind and character were happily attuned 'like perfect music set to noble words'; and he has left behind him a name which will serve as an inspiration and an example for many generations to come. His Highness the young Maha Raja, who has ascended the historic *musnad* of his ancestors, bids fair, by the remarkable intelligence and urbanity which he displays, to become a worthy successor in due time to His Highness the late lamented Maha Raja, his great-grand-uncle. During the minority of His Highness, the control of the State has happily vested in Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, the Senior Rani of the Ruling family, who is so well known for her great gifts, wide sympathies and high ideals. Under the gracious command of Her Highness, it is my privilege to welcome you to the twenty-first session of this Assembly.

2. Copies of the Administration Report for the year 1099 M. E. have already been placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail of the work and progress of the several departments of the State during that year. As you are aware, the policy that I decided to adopt in the conduct of the administration, with the approval of His Highness the late Maha Raja was roughly outlined in my address to the members of the seventeenth session of the Assembly, and it has been my endeavour in subsequent years to carry out that policy as far as circumstances have permitted and subject to such modifications in detail as have been considered necessary in the light of subsequent experience. In the present address, I propose to present a brief résumé of the results of that endeavour, and, in so doing, to indicate some of the lines on which future activities should proceed.

MATERIAL AND MORAL PROGRESS.

3. Assignment of Land. Another year's working of the Land Assignment Regulation, III of 1097, and of the Puduval Rules issued under Section 7 thereof, goes to confirm the conviction that the new provisions are effectively serving the objects for which they have been introduced, namely, prevention of speculation in land, securing to the *bona fide* occupant and improver of land the fruits of his labour, and equalisation of opportunities for all alike of obtaining land for cultivation. The total area registered rose from 7,659 acres in 1098 to 7,955

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